

Burns, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs; and Paula A. DeSutter, Assistant Secretary of State for Verification and Compliance.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the quality and accountability of higher education accreditation standards, after receiving testimony from Steven D. Crow, Higher Learning Commission, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Chicago, Illinois; Jeffrey D. Wallin, American Academy for Liberal Education, and Jerry L. Martin, American Council of Trustees and Alumni, both of Wash-

ington, D.C.; and Robert L. Potts, University of North Alabama, Florence.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee met to discuss certain committee business, made no announcements, and recessed subject to the call.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 21 public bills, H.R. 3845–3865; and 12 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 371–375, and H. Res. 538, 540–545 were introduced.

Pages H698–700

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H700–01

Reports Filed: No reports were filed today.

Unborn Victims of Violence Act: The House passed H.R. 1997, to amend title 18, United States Code, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice to protect unborn children from assault and murder, by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 254 yeas to 163 nays, Roll No. 31.

Pages H637–68

Rejected:

Lofgren amendment in the nature of a substitute that sought to make it a federal crime to assault a pregnant woman and establish penalties for causing a prenatal injury or termination of the pregnancy, in addition to the penalties imposed for the assault to the mother (rejected by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 186 yeas to 229 nays. Roll No. 30).

Pages H660–667

H. Res. 529, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to on Wednesday, February 25.

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, March 1, 2004; and further that when it adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2 for morning hour debate.

Page H669

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, March 3.

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Committee Chairman Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Tauzin wherein he resigned as Chairman of the Committee on Energy & Commerce.

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Committee Chairman Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 539, electing Representative Barton as the Chairman of the Committee on Energy & Commerce.

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Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Barton wherein he resigned from the Committee on Science.

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Recess: The House recessed at 5:20 p.m. and reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

Page H687

Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2003: The House passed H.R. 3850, to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

Pages H687–92

The bill was considered by unanimous consent after being discharged from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure by unanimous consent.

Page H687

Speaker Pro Tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Wolf to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through March 1.

Page H692

Presidential Messages: Read a message from the President wherein he certified that the governments of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia are cooperating fully with United

States efforts to obtain the fullest possible accounting of captured or missing U.S. personnel from past military conflicts or Cold War incidents—referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 108–164). **Page H670**

Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress of the continuation and expansion of the national emergency with respect to Cuba—referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 108–165). **Page H670**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H635.

Senate Referral: S. Con. Res. 92 was referred to the Committee on Government Reform. **Page H692**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings today. There were no quorum calls. **Pages H667, H668**

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies held a hearing on Natural Resources and Environment. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: Mark E. Rey, Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment; Bruce I. Knight, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Wade Daniel Runnels, Director, Budget Planning and Analysis Division, Natural Resources Conservation; and Stephen B. Dewhurst, Budget Officer.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, JUDICIARY AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary and Related Agencies began fiscal year 2005 appropriation hearings. Testimony was heard from Donald L. Evans, Secretary of Commerce.

INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies continued appropriation hearings. Testimony was heard from Spencer Abraham, Secretary of Energy.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing on Worker Protection Agencies. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Labor: Arnold Levine, Deputy Under Secretary, International Labor Affairs; Ann Combs, Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration; Victoria Lipnic, Assistant Secretary, Employment Standards Administration; David Lauriski, Assistant Secretary, Mine Safety and Health Administration; and John Henshaw, Assistant Secretary, OSHA.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies held a hearing on the U.S. Postal Service. Testimony was heard from John E. Potter, Postmaster General and CEO, U.S. Postal Service.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST—AIR FORCE

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization budget request for the Department of the Air Force. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Air Force: James G. Roche, Secretary; and Gen. John P. Jumper, USAF, Chief of Staff.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization budget request—Military Construction Budget Request for the Programs of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Defense Agencies, and the Reserve Components of the Department of the Air Force. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Raymond F. DuBois, Jr., Deputy Under Secretary, Installations and Environment; Nelson F. Gibbs, Assistant Secretary, Air Force, Installations, Environment, and Logistics; Maj. Gen. Dean Fox, USAF, The Air Force Civil Engineer; Brig. Gen. David A. Brubaker, USAF, Deputy Director, Air National Guard; and Brig. Gen. William A. Rajczak, USAF, Deputy to the Chief, Air Force Reserve.

DOD TRANSFORMATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities